

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CCO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 NIC-01 OMB-01

RSR-01 /085 W

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O R 272100 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2439

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1135

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CU

SUBJECT: CUBA AND THE OAS

DEPT PASS USOAS; CINCSO FOR POLAD

BEGIN SUMMARY - NCORMIN BORGONOVO WANTS KNOW IF SOMOZA' S REQUEST FOR A CENTRAL AMERICAN HARD LINE ON CUBA AT OASGA IS A SOMOZA INITIATIVE OR IF HE IS ACTING FOR USG. IF IT IS THE FORMER, SALVADOR MAY WISH TO RESPOND INSTEAD OF TAKING A PREVIOUSLY PLANNED PASSIVE ROLE. END SUMMARY.

1. FORMIN BORGONOVO ASKED ME TO COME IN THIS MORNING (27 MARCH), OSTENSIBLY TO PRESENT A NOTE REQUESTING U. S. SUPPORT FOR FORMER FORMINMARTINEZ MORENO AS A MEMBER OF THE UN' S INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION (AIRGRAM FOLLOWS). THAT DONE, HE ASKED ME AN INTERESTING QUESTION. " YESTERDAY", HE SAID " PRESIDENT SOMOZA CALLED PRESIDENT MOLINA AND ASKED HIM TO TAKE A STRONG STAND AT THE OASGA OPPOSED TO RELAXING CUBAN
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SANCTIONS." HE ASKED, FURTHERMORE, THAT MOLINA CONVINCE ARANA TO DO THE SAME. MOLINA, OFF ON A MULEBACK TOUR DURING ANOTHER SPASM OF THE GOBIERNO MOVIL, TOOK THE TROUBLE OF REPORTING THIS TO BORGONOVO, WHICH WAS DIFFICULT DUE TO THE REMOTENESS OF THE AREA BEING VISITED BY THE PRESIDENT. WHAT THE PRESIDENT WANTED THE FORMIN TO LEARN WAS: IS THIS DEMARCHE SOMOZA TALKING AS SOMOZA OR IS HE ACTING AS MOUTHPIECE FOR THE US? " OUR PROBLEM IS THIS", BORGONOVO SAID. " THE GUATEMALANS AND OURSELVES HAD DECIDED TO SIT BACK AND WATCH WHAT HAPPENS. VENEZUELA IS A KEY FACTOR IN ALL THIS AND IT IS CERTAIN THAT WE DON' T WANT TO BE MORE ANTI- CUBAN THAN THE U. S. INDEED, THE U. S. HAS NOT COME AND ASKED US TO TAKE A HARD LINE." (BY WAY OF REPLY TO THIS COMMENT, I SENT THE FORMIN THE TEXT OF HURWITCH' S SENATE STATEMENT.) " ON THE OTHER HAND", HE CONTINUED, " IF NICARAGUA REALLY FEELS THE MATTER IS IMPORTANT, WE MIGHT WANT TO RESPOND. THEY ARE FELLOW CENTRAL AMERICANS AND OF COURSE WE NEED THEM IN OUR DEALINGS WITH HONDURAS."

2. EXPANDING ON THE THEME, BORGONOVO SAID HIS COUNTRY WAS NOT AT THIS TIME REALLY INTERESTED IN CLOSER CUBAN TIES. ARENALES, ON THE OTHER HAND, MAKES THE POINT THAT AVOIDANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAS NOT HELPED GUATEMALA: " WE HAVE NO TIES WITH RUSSIA OR CUBA BUT WE HAVE NONETHELESS HAD PLENTY OF TROUBLE". THE FORMIN ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT MOLINA CONSIDERS HIMSELF SOMETHING OF A MEDIATOR BETWEEN ARANA AND SOMOZA, WHOSE RELATIONS ARE NOT OVERLY CORDIAL.

3. REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE. IT WOULD SEEM THAT IF SOMOZA IS ACTING ON HIS OWN, WE WOULD HAVE A RIPE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE EL SALVADOR AND PERHAPS GUATEMALA. I REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT' S VIEWS WITH REGARD TO THE MATTER.
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